



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Director
Austin Parks and Recreation

DATE: April 3, 2015

SUBJECT: National Recreation and Park Association Grant Opportunity

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) in collaboration with Disney, ABC and ESPN offers the “Parks Build Community” program contest to provide communities with resources to improve local parks through projects that connect kids with nature, promote healthy living and provide access to sports. Across the country, 15 communities, including Austin, will receive funding for one of three parks projects based on public votes. The public will also be able to nominate a 16th park project that will be entered in a random drawing for the chance to win \$20,000.

Austin’s park supporters can get involved in “Parks Build Community” by going online daily and voting for their favorite Austin park project from the list below. It is important to note, while the Parks and Recreation Department submitted six (6) projects for consideration, only three (3) projects were selected by NRPA for the final voting process. The exciting news is one of the park projects listed below will receive grant funding to help make park improvements. You and members of the Austin community can **cast your vote daily starting April 1st and throughout the month of April at NRPA.org/BeInspired.**

Contingent upon City Council’s approval, the Department will receive a \$20,000 grant for one of the following park projects:

- **Battle Bend Park Basketball Court Renovation:** Upgrade the popular basketball court at Battle Bend Neighborhood Park with new backboards and rims, court surface upgrades, new benches and new high efficiency lighting.
- **House Among the Trees at Zilker Park:** There is nothing closer to nature than a house among the trees! Give Austin’s kids a chance to explore nature in a treehouse complete with swinging walkways, climbing ramps and split-level platforms.
- **Nature Play at Dove Springs District Park:** Help connect Austin’s children with nature through nature-based play. New nature-play features at Dove Springs Park will include a boulder tunnel, council ring and slide hill.

Please contact Kimberly McNeeley, Assistant Director at (512) 974-6722 with questions.

cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager
Kimberly McNeeley, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department